

**Dactylolabis (Eudactylolabis) vestigipennis Alexander, a Xerophytic Subapterous Crane-Fly  
New to California (Diptera: Tipulidae)**

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Collecting at night on the Mojave Desert of California revealed a small subapterous crane-fly. Specimens were referred to Dr. Frank R. Cole of the California Insect Survey, who submitted them to Dr. Charles P. Alexander who informed us that they represented a species previously known from the type series of two males from the Tucson Mountains, Pima County, Arizona, 4,500 feet elevation, February 21, 1937.

Owen Bryant, collector of the type and paratopotype of *D. vestigipennis*, was quoted by Alexander in the original description as indicating that the specimens were found beneath sticks and stones on the ground. Bryant also made the observation that he believed that the species hid beneath stones and fragments of wood during the day and was active at night. These observations are confirmed by our discoveries.

The subgenus *Eudactylolabis* contains but two species (*damula* and *vestigipennis*) both showing peculiar features. The type *damula* (Osten Sacken) is a fully winged species that was first found at Crafton's Retreat, San Bernardino County, California, about twenty miles southeast of the Cajon Pass habitat. *D. vestigipennis* is a small crane-fly with extremely minute wings with the venation completely atrophied in both sexes. It is uniform dark brownish-black in body color with the wings whitish. The legs are lighter brown, darkened at the joints. A series of sixteen specimens was taken at the Los Angeles County locality and nearly 100 specimens were captured near Cajon Pass. Seven specimens of each sex were measured. Males ranged from 5.2 to 5.6 mm in body length with an average length of 5.36 mm; females from 6.5 to 8.0 mm in body length with an average of 7.87 mm.

We found the species at two localities, the first in Los Angeles County, 22 miles west of the junction of highways 138 and 14, February 10, 1967, the second in a similar habitat 3 miles north of Cajon Pass on Interstate highway 15, San Bernardino County, March 19, 1967.

All specimens were collected between 8 P.M. and midnight, and within 18 inches of the ground. Some were hanging motionless on grass stems but many were moving about. Various instances of mating were observed and several males were always found near a single female. The soil of both areas was sandy and rather moist. Temperatures were between 40° and 45°. No instances of oviposition were observed.

The California specimens all came from the juniper-pinyon association as described by Küchler (1964) in his book and accompanying map. Joshua tree (*Yucca brevifolia*) occurs at both California habitats. The Arizona specimens came from the creosote-bur sage association. No creosote bush (*Larrea divaricata*) occurs at either California habitat.

It is interesting to surmise why the species has gone unnoticed in California. Perhaps the species could be cyclic, appearing in numbers only during certain years, possibly during periods of great precipitation. This is not, however, greatly borne out by weather conditions in the early winter of 1966-67. Another possibility, and perhaps the real reason, is that the flies are adult during a period of the year when collecting is ordinarily not done, with the added possibility that they are active only on cooler nights.

We wish to thank Dr. F. R. Cole for criticizing the manuscript and for helpful suggestions. Also we are indebted to Dr. Alexander for encouraging us to present this note and for supplying certain details concerning the species.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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KÜCHLER, A. W. 1964. Amer. Geogr. Soc., Spec. publ. 36.